resentment among country's scientific community, institutions and leading academicians;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government propose to intervene in the matter; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (*DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI*): (a) *to* (*f*) Yes, Sir. The University Grants Commission *vide* its letter dated 23.2.2001 has informed all Universities receiving financial assistance about the decision of the Commission for setting up of a few Departments of Vedic Astrology in Indian Universities. This would provide teaching and training in the subject leading to the certificate, diploma, under-graduate, post-graduate and Ph.D. degrees. The UGC has also invited proposals from interested universities to start the course from the academic session 2001-2002. The introduction of the course has occasioned some debate in the press.

Clearance for Engineering Colleges in A.P.

3898. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines and principles followed by AICTE before granting permission for setting up or opening an engineering college;

(b) the number of such requests received from Andhra Pradesh during last two years and the number of clearances given, year-wise; and

(c) the reasons for delay in clearing the remaining applications?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has notified guidelines for granting approval for starting new technical institutions, which *inter alia*, includes conditions on fulfilment of financial soundness, availability of technical manpower, compliance of admission procedure/charging of fees, availability of infrastructure facilities like land, building, class room, etc.

(b) For the years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002, a total number of 321 proposals were received for opening up of engineering colleges in the State of Andhra Pradesh. AICTE granted approval for opening up of two engineering colleges in the State for the year 2000-01. For the year 2001-02, Letter of Viability has so far been issued in respect of 29 proposals.

(c) Deficiencies/shortcomings noticed in the proposals were communicated to the applicants. Only on receipt of compliance and further examination, final decision can be communicated.

Schemes for non-formal education

†3899. *SHRI VIKRAM VERMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN* RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether non-formal education scheme is a Central Government scheme and whether Government provide hundred per cent grant to States for the same;

(b) if so, the amount provided to Madhya Pradesh during the 2000-2001 financial year;

(c) whether Madhya Pradesh Government has made amendments in the scheme on its own and instructors and supervisors, who receive grants, have been withdrawn; and

(d) if so, under which head and with whose permission the amount of grant was spent?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (d) The erstwhile Scheme of Non-formal Education was a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under which Central assistance was provided to States/UTs in the ratio of 60:40 for co-educational centres and 90:10 for girl centres; and 100% assistance to Voluntary Agencies within the overall cost ceilings. An amount of Rs. 1049.63 lakhs was provided to Madhya Pradesh Government under State sector during 2000-2001 for the period April-August, 2000 during which the state Government has run Non-formal Education Centres.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.